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ABSTRACT

There is a great need for adult basic education in Appalachia Mississippi. The Itawamba Junior College (IJC) Vocational and Technical Adult Education Department is presently meeting the needs of a small majority of the adults who need additional education. In an agreement with Town and Country Mobile Homes manufacturers, the Mississippi State Department of Education, and the Appalachian Adult Basic Education Demonstration Center, IJC Adult Education Department created an educational facility through which undereducated adults can upgrade their functional educational level. The mobile home manufacturer built and donated the mobile classroom; the state department of education provided necessary funds to equip the facility with hardware and software and to pay the teacher's salary; and the IJC Adult Education Department supervised the project. An educational survey of various communities and industrial locations was conducted and a class schedule was established. Initially, 5 locations were selected and 80 people were enrolled. Presently, the mobile classroom is scheduled in 7 locations, with 125 people being enrolled. IJC Adult Education Department believes that the initial objectives set up for the mobile classroom have been met satisfactorily, inasmuch as the Mississippi State Department of Adult Education has agreed to support operations of the mobile classroom for 1970-71. (Author/AL)

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TOWN AND COUNTRY
MOBILE CLASSROOM

FINAL REPORT

MISSISSIPPI STATE MODULE

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Submitted to

Appalachian Adult Basic Education Demonstration Center
Morehead State University
Morehead, Kentucky

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FINAL REPORT SERIES

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**DEMONSTRATION, DEVELOPMENTAL AND RESEARCH PROJECT FOR PROGRAMS, MATERIALS, FACILITIES
AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FOR UNDEREDUCATED ADULTS**

Subcontract No.: AABEDC No. 44

TOWN AND COUNTRY CLASSROOM

MISSISSIPPI STATE MODULE

Project Directors

Larry Otis

Wylie Wood

Date: September 30, 1970

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT
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APPALACHIAN ADULT BASIC EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION CENTER "MOBILE CLASSROOM"

1. ABSTRACT

There is a great need for adult basic education in Appalachia Mississippi. IJC, Vocational and Technical Adult Education Department is presently meeting the needs of a small majority of the adults who need additional education.

In an agreement with Town and Country Mobile Homes, manufacturers of mobile homes, the Mississippi State Department of Education and AABEDC, Morehead, Kentucky, IJC Adult Education Department created an educational facility through which under-educated adults can up-grade their functional educational level.

The mobile home manufacturer built and donated the mobile classroom. The State Department of Education of Mississippi provided the necessary funds to equip the facility with hardware and software and the teachers salary. IJC Adult Education Department supervised the project. An educational survey of various communities and industrial locations was conducted and a class schedule was established. Initially five locations were selected with 80 people enrolled. Presently the mobile classroom is scheduled in seven locations with 125 people being enrolled. A schedule of classes is enclosed in the report.

IJC Adult Education Department believes that the initial objectives set up for the mobile classroom have been met satisfactorily, in as much as the Mississippi State Department of Adult Education has agreed to support the operations of the mobile class room for the fiscal year 1970-71.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Appalachia-in-Mississippi area is one in great need of Adult Basic Education. Many adults of this area have low educational levels. Seventy-five percent of all males within the Itawamba Junior College District have not completed high school. The average educational level for men is slightly below the ninth grade in years of schools completed. This, however, does not show the functional level that these people operate in their daily lives. Probably the most difficult task in this Junior College District is that of reaching those persons that need this education. Because of the rural nature of this District, it is difficult for many people to commute to and from school.

3. OBJECTIVES

I. To recruit undereducated adults into an Adult Basic Education Program through the use of a Mobile Learning Center:

A. Industrial Areas

A survey of industrial plants located in the city of Tupelo, Mississippi was made and classes were organized in three factories with a total enrollment of forty-five students. Due to the time involved, only these three locations can be served by the Mobile Classroom. These classes are scheduled to meet as the 1st shift is going off work and the second shift is coming on work, so that more people can utilize this educational facility. The students were questioned as to why they enrolled in this adult education class when there was a class being held somewhere in their community. The reasons were given as follows:

- (1) Convenience of location
- (2) Fear of embarrassment of going back to school with neighbors was overcome.
- (3) Use of modern educational conveniences, materials and equipment.
- (4) Attending school with fellow-workers

(B) Rural Communities

Surveys of rural communities in the Lee County area were made and a definite need for adult education was established. These surveys will be instrumental in the planning of future classes for the mobile classroom.

(C) Public Housing Facilities

An educational survey was made of the Public Housing Units of the Tupelo area. One hundred seventy-five of those people interviewed expressed a desire to continue their education thru an adult education class. Classes were started in two locations with an enrollment of thirty-five adults.

- II. To provide an effective educational facility through which under-educated adults can up-grade their functional educational level.

Students were administered the ABLE test for initial placement. The median grade placement was 4.3. After seventy-five hours of instruction per student another form of ABLE was given. The average score on this test was 6.2. The difference between pre-test and post-test showed a gain of 1.9 in grade placement, in comparison with average gain of conventional adult education classes where the median advancement of seventy-

five hours instruction was less than one grade level. The Mobile Unit has proven its importance as an effective educational facility.

- III. To disseminate information of public agencies and organizations related to the needs of under-educated adults.

The curriculum used in the mobile classroom includes materials which offer to the students information on public agencies and organizations which they should be familiar with as under-educated and in some cases, under privileged adults, e.a., consumer education kits, social security literature and man power training opportunities.

- IV. To determine needs of under-educated adults and in relation to their needs:

- (a) To provide education and training to meet their educational needs.

The functional educational level of each student is determined upon his enrollment in class. The student is given programmed material suited to his level of educational needs. The student has an opportunity to progress at his own rate of speed with the aid of an instructor to help with any occurring problems that he might encounter.

- (B) To refer students to other public agencies and organizations in regard to other needs.

The Mobile Classroom has been instrumental in promoting both adult and vocational education. Tupelo, Mississippi observed its 100th birthday during 1970 and a centennial village was constructed. The I.J.C. Mobile Classroom was located adjacent to the village. The facility was made available to the visitors of the village. Approximately 10,000 persons toured the Mobile Classroom and information concerning basic education and vocational education was dissiminated to these visitors. Many

adults have enrolled in both adult and vocational education classes as a result of their visitation of the mobile unit. The Mobile Classroom has been made available to the Agricultural Extension Service in working with their RCDC (Rural Community Development Committee).

- V. To demonstrate to the Mississippi State Department of Education the feasibility and necessity for an Adult Basic Education Mobile Learning Center in an isolated rural area.

Included in this report is a letter from the State Department of Education showing support for the operation of the Mobile Classroom.

4: COMPONENTS

Outreach

An educational survey was made of public housing units in Tupelo. The survey indicated that of the people interviewed one hundred seventy-five (175) expressed a desire to continue their education. This survey was conducted on a house to house basis by the personnel of the Mobile Classroom.

The industrial plants were visited by the staff and the program was explained to them. Efforts were made to establish classes in the plant locations. With the aid of management, three classes were initiated. The total enrollment of these classes amounted to forty-five (45).

Newspaper articles were written, television spots were obtained, and letters were mailed to prospective students as methods used for publicity and recruitment purposes.

Retention

Retention is a great problem of the conventional adult education class. There is a 45% dropout rate in the average adult class. The Mobile Classroom has alleviated the high dropout problems because the

average drop out rate of classes conducted in the mobile unit is less than 10%.

Diagnosis

All students were given the ABLE for both pre-test and post-test. Levels I and II of the test were used depending upon the student's ability to fill out the enrollment forms.

Manpower

The staff includes the director of the Vocational Center, Mr. Larry Otis and Mr. Wylie Wood, supervisor of adult education, who are responsible for the administration of the project.

The mobile classroom staff includes a curriculum specialist, Mrs. Nancy White and assistant curriculum specialist, Mr. Gene Turner. These two people are in charge of the actual operation of the classes in the facilities.

A counselor is used to carry out counseling responsibilities of the students. The salaries are paid by the Mississippi State Department of Education.

Materials

Materials used in the Mobile Classroom are as follows:

- EDL Equipment
- Controlled Readers
- Listening Tapes
- Plan Vocabulary Material
- Singer/Random House Programmed Math Kits
- Language Master
- Programmed Mott Material
- SRA Reading Labs
- Reading Attainment Kits

All of the material listed above have been very beneficial, but, the EDL equipment is probably the core of the curriculum in the Mobile Unit. The programed materials that are being used have proven to be the most effective.

Methods

The various methods of individualized instruction are used in the Mobile Classroom (groups, individual, and a blending of group and individual). The responses to this have been favorable. Mr. Turner usually handles the level I students and Mrs. White works with level II and level III students.

Follow-up

Due to the retention rate there has been a low drop out rate and the majority of the students initially enrolled are still attending classes.

The plant personnel assist the mobile unit staff in following up on any dropouts in the program. Plant managers bring these adults in for conferences and try to find out why they dropped out of school. They are encouraged to return. The Mobile Unit staff does virtually the same thing. Great success has been achieved as far as getting dropouts to return to class.

Counseling

A full time counselor is employed by the Itawamba Junior College, Adult Education Department. She visits the Mobile Unit periodically to counsel with the students. Although this has proven beneficial, it is still the instructors who do the majority of the counseling. They seem to be closer to the students and can get more information from them.

Personnel from the employment office and other agencies are called in to inform the students of information regarding their particular programs that might be of interest to the students.

5. STATE SUPPORT

The State Department of Education provided funds for equipping the Mobile Unit with necessary materials and equipment to be used in class instruction. The salaries of the personnel were provided by the State Department of Education. A commitment from the State Department of Education has been made to provide funds for the continued operation of the Itawamba Junior College Mobile Classroom.

Recommendations

It was found that the Mobile Unit provided a modern classroom setting in areas where otherwise it would not have been available.

The retention rate of the students was increased due to the locations of the classroom near the student's daily surroundings.

The materials used in the curriculum have been readily received and accepted by the students.

It has been recommended to the Mississippi State Department of Education that additional facilities such as this would be beneficial in the promotion of adult education.

State of Mississippi

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
G. H. JOHNSTON, SUPERINTENDENT



DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION
JOE E. HOLLOWAY, Director
P. O. Box 771
JACKSON, MISS. 39205

October 22, 1970

Mr. Larry Otis, Director
Vocational Technical Education Center
Itawamba Junior College
P. O. Drawer 1588
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

Dear Mr. Otis:

This is with reference to a telephone conversation with Mr. Wylie Wood this date concerning a report being completed for Mr. George Eyster, Appalachian Program Officer, Morehead State Teachers College, Morehead, Kentucky.

The Mississippi State Department of Education will cooperate in every way, so long as funds are available, to furnish an instructor and all materials needed to continue the classes that have operated during the fiscal year 1971 in the mobile unit operating in conjunction with the Vocational Technical Center, Itawamba Junior College, Tupelo. We feel that this approach has been highly innovative in the Appalachia Region in Mississippi and that in the future, as a result of the publicity this approach has received, this approach of taking the classrooms to the heavily populated areas where facilities are not available will be used by other programs.

We would like to assure you that the entire Adult Basic Education Program funded in Itawamba Junior College is one of the most successful that we have had in the State of Mississippi. The State Department of Education has received one-hundred percent cooperation from all members of your staff in this program.

If we can be of further service to you, please feel free to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. Baddley
J. C. Baddley, Supervisor
Adult Education

JCB/hsw

Vocational & Technical Education Center

Itawamba Junior College and Agricultural High School

Drawer 1588

Tupelo, Mississippi 38601

Telephone 842-5621

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES FOR MOBILE UNIT

Monday	Guntown, Mississippi	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday	Frisco Area - South Tupelo	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Kruger Metal Products - Tupelo	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Super Sagless Springs - Tupelo	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	New Hope Community (Shannon)	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Thursday	H.I.S. Manufacturing Co. (Verona)	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday	Vo-Tech Center (Tupelo)	